

## **Unfavorable Response to HB185**

### **Criminal Law - Visual Surveillance With Prurient Intent - Minor Victim**

Families Advocating Intelligent Registries (FAIR) seeks rational, constitutional sexual offense laws and policies for persons accused and convicted of sexual offenses.

This bill creates a felony offense for visual surveillance with prurient intent of a minor by someone who is at least four years older. We have some concerns about the current wording of this bill, as well as the harsher penalties.

“Minor” is not defined here, and this could cause confusion in enforcement. Is it under 21 years (the legal drinking age)? Under 18 (legal voting age)? Or under 16 years (age of consent?)

FAIR also has concerns with the wording “four years older.” This could scoop up another minor! Some 11 or 12 year old could sneak pictures of an 8 year old boy in the bathroom or bedroom, and find themselves charged with this crime. Or it could be a 16 or 17 year old taking videos of a 12-13 year old.

Do we really want to push a felony charge on these kids? All the research points to the fact that youth are the most receptive to positive change and most responsive to treatment as they get older.

For these reasons, FAIR urges the committee to submit an unfavorable report on this bill. Thank you.

Sincerely,



Brenda V. Jones, Executive Director  
Families Advocating Intelligent Registries  
Cell: 301-318-8964